

Faculty of Electrical Engineering, CTU in Prague and Cabinet Plasseraud - European Patent and Trademark Attorneys

would like to invite you to a guest lecture

IP protection for Software

By Eric Gruson

When: 19th April 2017 at 16:30

Where: KN:E-107 (K1) Zengerova lect. room, FEL ČVUT, Praha 2, Karlovo Náměstí 13

Last decades brought an incredible growth of software development progressing to the point where software applications are now virtually everywhere. The increasing complexity of software solutions and related investments have brought key questions concerning Intellectual property rights raised by the SW industry. How to make sure that a third party cannot or will not steal the work? Is the proper protection copyright or patent (or both)?

To answer these questions the lecture is going to provide an insight into the European and US patent practice to help understand possibilities of a proper IP protection around SW applications. In Europe and US the case laws may be quite complex and unstable so it is important to know the latest developments to understand relevant IP protection. For instance, in the US, a decision of the Supreme Court (i.e. *Alice Corp.*) has been considered as a decision against SW patents or patents on software for business methods. More recent decisions of the Court of Appeal of the Federal Circuit modified substantially the former interpretation of Alice but in what extends? In Europe, the question of software patentability is mainly analyzed through a technical effect analysis. Therefore, it is essential to determine how the technical nature of an invention should be assessed.

In the meanwhile, a part of the society (i.e. “free software community”) questioned the fact that “software patents” may be allowed and if so, they wonder where the boundary between patentable and non-patentable software should lie. These questions lead to the emergence of an “open-source” software movement.



Eric Gruson has wide experience in patent prosecution and litigation with a particular emphasis on computer technology and telecommunications (e.g. Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Modelling/Simulation, Computer analysis, Databases, Communications).

Eric's expertise includes handling of patent infringement cases before the French and European courts, as well as opposition cases before the European Patent Office (EPO), freedom to operate opinions, due diligence in various fields of Software and Electrical Engineering.

Eric holds both engineering and a master of law degree and he has been with Cabinet Plasseraud since 2010 in the Mechanical/Electronics/Computer science department.